

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)

Purpose

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is the only tool states have to ensure that children placed across state lines are protected. The variety of circumstances which make interstate placement of children necessary offers compelling reasons for an interstate compact which regulates these placements. All 50 states as well as the District of Columbia enacted the ICPC by 1986.

Application

The ICPC applies to three situations: placements preliminary to a possible adoption; placements into foster care, including placements into parent or relative homes, foster homes and residential treatment facilities; and placements of adjudicated delinquents in institutions in other states.

The compact defines the persons and agencies, who, when they place a child from one party state into another party state, must observe the compact. These persons and agencies are called *sending agencies* and they include: a party state, or any other officer or employee of a party state; a subdivision of a party state, or any officer or employee of the subdivision; a court of a party state; any person, corporation, association, or charitable agency of a party state.

The compact specifically excludes from coverage the placement of a child made by a parent, stepparent, grandparent, adult brother or sister, adult uncle or aunt, or guardian, when the placement is made with a like-named relative. The ICPC also excludes placements made into predominately educational or medical facilities.

There are a number of safeguards in the compact to protect both the children and the sending and receiving states. The ICPC:

- Provides an opportunity to obtain home studies and an evaluation of each interstate place before it is made.
- Allows the prospective receiving state to ensure that all its applicable child placement laws and policies are followed before it approves an interstate placement.
- Gives the prospective receiving state the opportunity to consent to or deny a placement before it is made.

- Provides an opportunity to obtain supervision and regular reports on each interstate placement.
- Guarantees the child legal and financial protection by fixing these responsibilities with the sending agency or individual.
- Ensures that the sending agency or individual does not lose legal jurisdiction over the child once the child is moved to the receiving state.

The compact is administered by an office lodged in each state=s department of social services. Each state has appointed a compact administrator and one or more deputy administrators who oversee or perform the day-to-day tasks of the compact.